

CLAIMS

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1. An electronic book device, comprising:
a portable housing; and
a processor in the housing and displaying content stored in a storage device by undertaking at least one of: responding to plural input modes, and outputting the content using plural output modes.
 2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the plural output modes include at least visual graphics and sound, and the device includes at least one visual display and at least one audio speaker, both being responsive to the processor for outputting content.
 3. The device of Claim 2, wherein the processor is responsive to user input selecting an output mode.
 4. The device of Claim 1, wherein the plural input modes include at least graphics and sound, and the device includes at least one graphics input device and at least one audio input device, both sending input signals to the processor.
 5. The device of Claim 4, wherein the processor is responsive to user input selecting an input mode.

1 6. The device of Claim 1, wherein the processor responds to a graphics input mode by
2 outputting content in a graphics output mode using a graphic user interface, the processor also
3 responding to an audio input mode by outputting content in an audio output mode using an audio
4 user interface.

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1 7. The device of Claim 6, wherein the user interfaces run simultaneously with each other.

1 8. The device of Claim 6, wherein the processor receives for storage annotations from
2 a user-selected one of the user interfaces.

1 9. The device of Claim 6, wherein the processor is programmed to allow a user to
2 navigate through the content using a user-selected one of the user interfaces.

1 10. The device of Claim 8, wherein the annotations are associated with user-selected
2 portions of content.

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4 11. The device of Claim 6, wherein the processor receives for storage annotations from
5 a user-selected one of the user interfaces and updates the other user interface with the annotations.

1 12. The device of Claim 6, wherein the processor is programmed to allow a user to

1 navigate through the content using a user-selected one of the user interfaces to render a navigation
2 result, the processor updating the other user interface with the navigation result.

1 13. An electronic book, comprising:
2 content stored in at least one data storage;
3 at least one abstract interface accessing the data storage;
4 at least an audio user interface communicating with the abstract interface; and
5 at least one graphics user interface communicating with the abstract interface, the
6 abstract interface receiving user input commands from the audio user interface and updating
7 the graphics user interface in response thereto, the abstract interface receiving user input
8 commands from the graphics user interface and updating the audio user interface in response
9 thereto.

1 14. The book of Claim 13, wherein the book includes at least one visual display associated
2 with the graphics user interface and at least one audio speaker associated with the audio user
3 interface.

1 15. The book of Claim 14, wherein content is output in a graphics output mode using the
2 graphic user interface, content also being output in an audio output mode using the audio user
3 interface.

16. The book of Claim 15, wherein the user interfaces run simultaneously with each other.
17. The book of Claim 15, wherein the annotations from a user-selected one of the user interfaces are stored in the book.
18. The book of Claim 15, wherein a user navigates through the content using a user-selected one of the user interfaces.
19. The book of Claim 17, wherein the annotations are associated with user-selected portions of content.
20. The book of Claim 15, wherein the abstract interface updates one of the user interfaces in response to commands received from the other user interface.
21. A computer program product, comprising:
a computer program storage device;
computer-readable instructions on the storage device for causing a computer to display electronic content in more than one mode, comprising:
computer readable code means for receiving an annotation to content via an audio user interface;
computer readable code means for associating the annotation with content; and

1 computer readable code means for displaying the annotation and associated content
2 using a graphical user interface.

1 22. The computer program product of Claim 21, further comprising:

2 computer readable code means for receiving an annotation to content via a graphical
3 user interface;

4 computer readable code means for associating the annotation with content; and

5 computer readable code means for displaying the annotation and associated content
6 using an audio user interface.

1 23. The computer program product of Claim 21, wherein the user interfaces run
2 simultaneously with each other.

1 24. The computer program product of Claim 21, further comprising computer readable
2 code means for allowing a user to navigate through the content using a user-selected one of the user
3 interfaces.

1 25. The computer program product of Claim 21, further comprising computer readable
2 code means for storing annotations from a user-selected one of the user interfaces and computer
3 readable code means for updating the other user interface with the annotations.

1 26. The computer program product of Claim 21, further comprising:
2 computer readable code means for allowing a user to navigate through the content
3 using a user-selected one of the user interfaces to render a navigation result; and
4 computer readable code means for updating the other user interface with the navigation
5 result.

1 27. A method for presenting content using an electronic book, comprising:
2 providing a portable housing having content electronically stored therein;
3 running a first output thread useful for displaying the content; and
4 simultaneously with running the first output thread, running at least a second output
5 thread useful for displaying the content.

1 28. The method of Claim 27, wherein the first output thread is a graphics output thread
2 and the second output thread is an audio output thread.

1 29. The method of Claim 27, wherein the threads are run simultaneously with each other
2 such that each thread is at substantially the same location in the content as the other thread.

1 30. The method of Claim 27, wherein each output thread is associated with a
2 corresponding input mode for inputting annotations and user commands.

1 31. The method of Claim 30, further comprising responding to user commands to switch
2 between displaying the content from the first output thread and displaying the content from the
3 second output thread.

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